

## *When I Must Leave You*

*When I must leave you for a little while-  
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears  
And hug your sorrow to you through the years;*

*But start out bravely with a gallant smile  
And for my sake and in my name live on  
And do all things the same;*

*Feed not your loneliness on empty days,  
But fill each waking hour in useful ways;*

*Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer  
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;*

*And never, never be afraid to die,  
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

*Helen Steiner Rice*

Elizabeth loved her husband, her children, her family, and friends. She took her lemons and made lemonade. She raised her family with the only tools she knew and had. She did her best.

## **Celebrating the Life of** *Elizabeth Grimes*

**October 19, 1931 - August 22, 2018**



## Obituary



Elizabeth Grimes was born to Joseph and Inez (Windom) Lawrence, in Jonesboro, NC. The middle child, she grew up with her older sister, Ella Mae and her younger brother, John Lewis in the rolling hills of Lee County, on Maybe Hill. This was the era which ended prohibition, endured the great depression, and ushered in WWII. In the early to mid-1940's, she moved north to Brooklyn, NY, with her parents, her sister Ella Mae and her nephew, Eddie Lee Lawrence. Following the move to New York, she was educated in the public school system. A natural student that gravitated towards education. Elizabeth would go on to graduate from Thomas Jefferson High School in 1949. She attended Deforest Business Training School (which became DeVry in 2002) for 2 years, but dropped out to help support her family during hard times. On one life changing Sunday morning at St. Paul Community Baptist Church, she met the man who would become the love of her life,

James Grimes. Their courtship was brief and intense, ending in marriage a year later. On May 4, 1952 they were married where they originally met. A dedicated Mother, Elizabeth was passionate about cooking from scratch and education. Her Granddaughter, Jameelah remembers these days, saying "She taught us how to read, write and count...although Kai was able to write a novel and solve algebra problems, I started nursery school at 3-years old already knowing how to neatly write my name, identify short sight words and perform simple math. As I began my career as an educator, I have been called upon to reflect on my earliest memories of learning often. I always thought of how amazing she was at identifying individual learning challenges and determining the appropriate strategies to address them. She did this without any formal education or training in the education field. It was a gift!"

As the children grew older, Elizabeth embarked on a career at Equitable Life Insurance Company for 15 years as their Lead IBM Key Punch Operator. She and James would go on to become members of First Baptist Church in Crown Heights, NY, under the leadership of Rev. Clarence Norman, Sr. Active in the church for 20 years, Elizabeth served as Assistant Director of the Youth Choir (Leslie Vaughters, Director), where her children sang. She was very active in the Brooklyn and Queens Public School System. Elizabeth was an advocate for integration, and Black children being bused to schools of a higher educational caliber; hoping to secure equality of education for underprivileged children.

Elizabeth and James retired to Atlanta, GA in 1986, joining Ben Hill United Methodist Church, where she served on the Christian Doorkeepers Usher Team for nearly 15 years; as well as the Jewels and Partners Ministry before becoming ill.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her father and mother, Joseph and Inez Lawrence, her sister, Ella Mae Lawrence, her brother, John Lewis, grandson, Tyrell Pravato and daughter, Tomika M. Grimes.

She is survived by her children: Wallace G. Grimes, Ev L. Thomas (Granarldo Vitez), Deborah L. Gibbs, James I. Grimes, Jr. (Angela), Cynthia Hooker (Lawrence), Jacquelyn Fuller, Neffertitie Pravato, Demetria Hutcheson (Joe), John Eric Grimes, and Kenneth Grimes.

She is also survived by her grandchildren: Jameelah Clayton-Jennings (Kenneth); Kai Mays (James, Jr.); William A. Rogers (Shemika); James L. Grimes; Dalia I. Bullock; Al-Aakhir Rogers (Diana); Niya Gibbs; Tashera Hutcheson (Michael); Sa'lyd Campbell (Daakeia); Sean Watford; Daquan Grimes, Lakeshia Grimes, Laniese Grimes, Eric Latrell Grimes and Kaimel Grimes.

She is also survived by her great-grandchildren: James E. Mays III, Khalil J. Mays, Sri K. Mays, Kiari I. Mays, Latif Mays, Amirah S. Mays, and Jair Mays; Kailia Bryce, Jahlil Allen, Jillian Allen, and Millionaire Allen; Gia and Maya Hutcheson; Sa'lyd Campbell, Jr. and Kaleya Campbell; Jabari Grimes and Lamaya Grimes; Cambrea Rogers and William A. Rogers, Jr.; Ameer Jennings and Ayah Jennings; Ariel Rogers and Asa Rogers; Xavier Grimes, Semaj Grimes, and Giovanni Grimes; and Dylan N. Antwi.

She is survived by cousins in Brooklyn, NY, Sanford, NC, and Los Angeles, CA.

## Remembrances

"My Aunt Liz kept the cleanest home throughout my lifetime of anyone ever. Truly an inspiration for me in times when I wanted to wallow in my own filth because she told me, 'If you wait for a mess before you clean up you won't be able to clean up the mess waiting for you.' She taught me to be proactive in that way which is a wonderful habit that I thank her for." *Martin C. Rogers, Family*

"I got to know Mrs. GG during the last few years of her life and that is one spunky woman! My fondest memory is when she flashed me and pulled her shirt up and I replied, 'GG. I'm telling Mr. Grimes. Her response was, so!' Now in her defense, I'm not sure if she was flashing me or tired of waiting for someone to help her get into her night clothes." *Jackson Hayes, Family Friend*

"Oh man, that woman was like a mother to me that literally lived down the block. When you hear the words, 'It takes a village to raise a child' -- She embodied the village...She was the village. She loved and protected all of us. Have a peaceful journey, my love. Her spirit will live on with us always. R.I.P. Momma G." *Earl Thompson, Family*

"I loved Mrs. Grimes' warm, beautiful smile that always greeted me whenever I saw her. She had a sharp mind, and she wasn't afraid to speak it; I loved that about her. I learned to make apple sauce from scratch because of her. I miss her already." *Cheryl Henry, Family Friend*

"My favorite memory of GG happened at Binky's wedding reception. Of course, I'm always greedy for her cooking and she had made her famous yams; I kept saying how good they were and how I wanted to learn to cook them like she does. She leans into my left ear and says, "You cook with love and your family will eat whatever you cook!" Girl, then she gave me my portion that she had saved for me. Only food I wanted and did eat at the reception 'cause GG saved me some of her 'famous' yams. Hmmm...Cook with Love."

*Deborah 'Nubian' Jenkins, Family Friend*

"Mama G, did you eat my lemon cake? She replied, 'I sure did and it was good too! It was delicious.'"

*Lashanda Ingram,  
Homecare Attendant*

"Your Mother was my other Mother. She treated me like one of her children."

*Cynthia Carter, Family Friend*

"She will always be remembered by her perseverance and kindness."

*Eric Latrell Grimes, Grandson*

"The unconditional love that she has showed me over the past 20 years has been truly appreciated. I remember the trip to Tampa, FL for Al-Aakhir's wedding and the entire time spent with her in the car was unforgettable. I laughed almost the whole way there. She will truly be missed and I thank her because without the birth of my father I wouldn't be here today."

*Laniese Grimes, Granddaughter*

"Elizabeth was a Sweet Spirit full of life and joy. Her warmth and friendliness made you gravitate toward her. I am blessed to have known her." *Hattie Randall, Church Family*

"Elizabeth was such a special person to me, when I had nothing, she gave me money. I will never forget that she loved me like a daughter and I loved her like a mother. She is ushering in heaven now. Oh, how I will miss her." *Caroline Jester, Church Family*

## 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.

He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.

He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.

You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.

You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.

Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me.

All the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

## Order of Service

Friday, August 31, 2018  
11:00 am

### Musical Prelude

#### Processional

Hymn of Celebration ..... Song: Praise Him  
Keith Wilson, Dir. of Music & Worship

Reading of Scripture ..... Rev. Cynthia Jackson  
Old Testament: Psalm 139:13-14

Reading of Scripture ..... Rev. Dr. Paul H. Easley, Sr.  
New Testament: 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Dr. Byron E. Thomas

Celebration in Song ..... Keith Wilson, Dir. of Music & Worship

Reflections of Love ..... Venita Epps  
Curtis G. Rogers  
Brian C. Watson

Celebration in Song ..... Keith Wilson, Dir. of Music & Worship

Words of Comfort (Eulogy) ..... Dr. Al-Aakhir A. Rogers

Acknowledgements ..... Jacklyn Thomas

#### Recessional

Ben Hill United Methodist Church  
2099 Fairburn Road SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30331  
Reverend Dr. Byron E. Thomas  
Senior Pastor



“There are so many things I can say about “Ma”. As I reflect on the many ways she has impacted my life. Some of my earliest memories took place in her house on Monterey Street, which was always rumbling with the sound of children’s laughter and fun. As an adult woman raising children of my own, I still can’t figure out how so many children can be in one house and she still managed to have sparkling hard wood floors. I remember spending what felt like hours (*but was probably more like 10 minutes*), picking up kernels of rice after lunch. When I think of “Ma” I think of Virginia Slims, mayo and banana sandwiches, homemade apple sauce, watermelon and salt, blue and purple tinted frames, those fishnet flip flops, and her infamous stutter that seemed to only be detectable when someone was about to catch a beat down. With so many children in the house it was common knowledge that any one of us could get it at any given time for violating the rules. I will forever be grateful to her for the selfless ways she cared for me. I will continue to honor her life and legacy in my actions and interactions with the children I’ve been blessed to work with. Thank you Ma! May Allah forgive your sins and may you rest in an abundance of peace and love with Jesus in paradise! Love, honor, and respect forever! *Jameelah “Jam” Yasmeen Ebony Jennings, Granddaughter*

“She always told me she’s gonna beat my a--, no matter how big or small.” *Kai Mays, Granddaughter*

“Moo-Moo was a woman who brought many people together, and taught me that Family is more than blood-related.” *William ‘AC’ Rogers, Grandson*

“My Moo-Moo always used to tell me ‘Dee I’m gonna whip that little tail of yours you keep it up’ and smack me on my butt! Did it up until them hands couldn’t smack anymore! I’m really going to miss carrying her to her bed and falling on the floor ‘cause she had that grip on the rail and she’d sigh as if she was tired and then allow me to put her in the bed and tuck her in... That’s my girl... my Queen Elizabeth! *Dalia Bullock, Granddaughter*

Anytime I always talked to Grandma, she would say in her high pitched voice, “Aakhir, I’m blessed, thank you Father!” *Dr. Al-Aakhir Rogers, Grandson*

“Moo-Moo was the perfect mixture of love and discipline.” *Tashera Hutcheson, Granddaughter*

“From when I was young and growing up, she didn’t change, not one bit. She kept it real--she kept it 100. Whatever came out of her mouth, that is how she felt...that was her opinion and she was gonna let you know. You could tell she was the most caring person.” *Sean Watford, Grandson*

“My fondest memories of Lizzie: Having the privilege & honor of spending time with her during her last years; and always hearing her tell me ‘Don’t drop me, you can’t pick me up girl!’...GG was infamous for slowly getting me and my mother mixed up, ALWAYS! Calling out for ME and saying ‘Dalia!? Uh uh uhuh Kailia!?’ and you just thought she was getting old, in this challenging stage of her life, within that beautiful mind. I remember fondly when one day Lizzie came to a clear, lucid conscious conclusion and let me know why she always calls me Dalia. She said, ‘You know why I call you Dalia? ‘cause the only difference is you-all’s complexion! You look just alike, you’re just darker!’ In that moment, my Lizzie assured me that deep down, she was always in there. And she wasn’t always crazy and losing her mind. She was just crazy.....& it was no reason to truly worry or mind.”  
*Kailia Bryce, Great-Granddaughter*

“What I liked about my GG is she was always so funny and she didn’t care at all.”  
*Millionaire Allen, Great-Grandson*

“One evening as sundown approached, we were outside playing past the time when we should have gone inside. GG came outside and in front of our friends, yelled for us to come inside. The thing is, she forgot to put her wig on! When she realized this, she said, ‘I’m so sorry you kids had to see that!’ We will never forget that day.” *Tre, KJ, Sri, Kiari, Latif, Amirah and Jair Mays, Great-Grandchildren*

# Remembrances

**"Looks like you messed around and beat me to heaven anyway."** *James 'Jim' Grimes, Sr., Husband*

**"Mom always said she was proud of me and that she loved me. I love and miss her."** *Wallace Grimes, Son*

**"Mom, I NEVER realized how much I was like you. You gave me EVERYTHING I needed to be a strong woman. When I look in the mirror, you stare right back at me! I love you and thank you for forgiving me when you had the faculties to do so ... that was God's redeeming gift to me. I'll be just fine relying on His POWER, in lieu of my own strength. You will be missed, but NEVER forgotten."**

*Ev Thomas, Daughter*

**"I was packing up and preparing to leave home and Mom said to me, 'Stay until you've had enough. You'll know when you've had enough.'" *Deborah 'Debbie' Gibbs, Daughter***

**"At my Grandmother's house, my Mom came over to pick us up (Ev, Wallace and myself). For some reason, my Aunt Ella (her elder sister) irritated my Mom, and my Mom said to her, 'Stop that nonsense Ella Mae!' At this point, my Aunt Ella Mae began to chase my Mom all around the house. We thought that was the funniest thing we'd ever seen, My Mom running through the house from her big sister! If I close my eyes, I can see it still."** *James 'Jay' Grimes, Jr., Son*

**"My heart is so heavy... my mom who raised me from age 18, taught me the goodness of Jesus, life's ups and downs, but always keep your head up. There are no words I can say, except the heavens received a beautiful angel."** *Cynthia Hooker, Daughter*

**"Elizabeth Grimes you were my inspiration and encouragement. I remember you used to tell me I had pretty legs because I had a complex about my skinny legs. You said, 'Jackie, be thankful because some people don't have legs!' I remember the talks we shared...they inspired me. Even to this day, you have given me the confidence to believe in myself. There are so many memories...Your smile and watching you play Pac-Man all night 'til you reached a high score; Your eating peanut butter off the spoon; Your telling me how you almost died for being polite and holding in gas, and then you would fart and say 'better out than in,' and you would then say, 'excuse me!' I just want to say that although you are not here physically, I feel your presence and hear your voice still encouraging me to win that race for Jesus so we can see each other again. See you later Mommy, I will always love you."** *Jacqueline Fuller, Daughter*

**"Tiffany, don't be like me"** *Neffertitie 'Tiffany' Pravato, Daughter*

**"Mommy was very kind. She would ask me, 'How you doing baby?'" *Demetria Hutchison, Daughter***

**"I remember how, in the early days, GG would insist upon feeding me whenever I came over. A lot of times it would be left-overs and she would always sit there and watch me eat, saying, 'I love to see people eat.' GG received so much joy from people enjoying her cooking."**

*Victor 'Vigaro' Thomas Son-In-Law, (Vigaro being GG's special name for Vic)*

**"I didn't have the opportunity to grow up with my grandparents. GG and GPa were my first introduction to grandparents. GG was kind and feisty all wrapped into one, always trying to feed me a meal, even if I just ate."** *Diana Rogers, Granddaughter-In-Law*

**"I remember clearly how good her candied yams were. I always felt like I could taste the love in them. I remember feeling special, that when I'd come over on a consistent basis, she would take the time to pull me aside and show me exactly how she made them, until I had perfected the recipe. To me, it was a sign that I was family, like a right-of-passage of some sort, to be let in on a family secret. I'm gonna miss GG a lot."** *Vaughn Allen*



**Unusual for the times, James and Elizabeth purchased a home in 1969 in Queens Village, NY. They had now transitioned from the borough of Brooklyn to the Borough of Queens. Culturally rich, it was here that they raised their family.**

